

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Remaining Claims

Sixteen (16) claims (Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 10, and 15 - 21) remain pending in this application through this Amendment. Claim 5 has been deleted; Claims 1 - 3, 6, 8, 10, and 15 - 16 have been amended; and Claims 19 - 21 have been added herein. As explained in more detail below, Applicant has amended the claims to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention, and submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Marking To Show Changes Made."

Claims 6 - 10, 15, and 16 have been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form for the reasons given on page 3 of Paper No. 5.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5, with the exception that the claim does not recite surface active agents or viscosity enhancers. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 6.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form reciting a contact lens care solution comprising a biguanide and D-panthenol.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of former Claim 1.

New Claims 19 and 20 merely incorporate the limitations from former Claim 5 and depend from Claims 15 and 16, respectively. New Claim 21, recites a method of cleaning a lens with the solution of Claim 6.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) - Clark, et al.

Claims 1, 4, and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,290,813 to *Clark, et al.*

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5. Because Claim 3 was not rejected as anticipated by *Clark, et al.*, amended Claim 1 is no longer anticipated by this reference. Claim 4 is dependent from Claim 1, and Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Therefore, because *Clark, et al.* do not teach each and every of the claimed elements of the present invention, Claims 1, 4, and 5 are not anticipated by this reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) - Vargas, et al.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 4,268,526 to *Vargas, et al.*.

As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5. Because Claim 3 was not rejected as anticipated by *Vargas, et al.*, amended Claim 1 is no longer anticipated by this reference. Claims 2 and 4 are dependent from Claim 1, and Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Therefore, because *Vargas, et al.* do not teach each and every of the claimed elements of the present invention, Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are not anticipated by this reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1 - 5, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §102(b) - Deckner, et al.

Claims 1 - 5, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 4,863,725 to *Deckner, et al.*

As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5. However, the claim does not recite surface active agents or viscosity enhancers that were claimed in original Claim 5, that Examiner states are recited in *Deckner, et al.* Furthermore, *Deckner, et al.* do not teach solutions containing "one or more further constituents selected from the group consisting of buffer substances, substances that affect the tonicity, complexing agents and/or antimicrobial compounds" as recited in amended Claim 1. Claims 2 - 4 and 17 - 18 are dependent, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. Claim 5 has been cancelled.

Therefore, because *Deckner, et al.* do not teach each and every of the claimed elements of the present invention, Claims 1 - 5, 17 and 18 are not anticipated by this reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

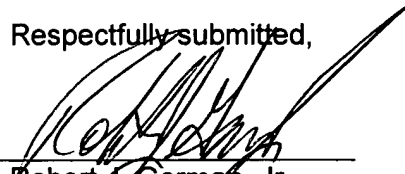
In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicant submits* that the 35 USC §102 rejection(s) set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that the pending claims are not anticipated by the cited art. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection(s) set-forth in the Office Action. Should the Examiner

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believe that a discussion with Applicant's representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Please address all correspondence to Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees with may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please delete Claim 5.

Please amend Claims 1 – 3, 6, 8, 10, and 15 – 16; and add new Claims 19 - 20 as follows:

1. (amended) Contact lens care composition comprising:
0.5 to 4 percent by weight dexpantenol based on the total weight of the contact lens care composition; and
one or more further constituents selected from the group consisting of buffer substances, substances that affect the tonicity, complexing agents and/or antimicrobial compounds.
2. (twice amended) Contact lens care composition according to claim 1, further comprising dexpantenol and D-sorbitol.
3. (twice amended) Contact lens care composition according to claim 4 6, comprising an aqueous solution comprising 0.5 to 4 percent by weight, of dexpantenol, based on the total weight of the contact lens care composition.
6. (twice amended) Contact lens care composition ~~according to claim 1, which comprises~~ comprising dexpantenol and an antimicrobial agent which is a biguanide ~~one or more buffer substances, PHMB, sodium chloride or potassium chloride, and a complexing agent.~~
8. (twice amended) Contact lens care composition according to claim 2, ~~which comprises dexpantenol,~~ 6, further comprising D-sorbitol, one or more buffer substances, PHMB, ~~sodium chloride or potassium chloride,~~ and a complexing agent.
10. (twice amended) Contact lens care composition according to claim 7 6, which further comprises, in addition, a surface-active substance.
15. (twice amended) Method for cleaning and optionally disinfecting a contact lens, wherein a contact lens care composition ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising dexpantenol is brought into contact with a contact lens for a period of time that is sufficient to clean and optionally disinfect said lens.
16. (twice amended) Method for cleaning and optionally disinfecting a contact lens according to Claim 15, wherein a the contact lens care composition further comprises D-sorbitol ~~according to claim 2, is brought into contact with a contact lens for a period of time that is sufficient to clean and optionally disinfect said lens.~~
19. (new) Method for cleaning and optionally disinfecting a contact lens according

to Claim 15, wherein the contact lens care composition further comprises one or more further constituents selected from the group consisting of buffer substances, substances that affect the tonicity, complexing agents, and/or antimicrobial compounds.

20. (new) Method for cleaning and optionally disinfecting a contact lens according to Claim 16, wherein the contact lens care composition further comprises one or more further constituents selected from the group consisting of buffer substances, substances that affect the tonicity, complexing agents, and/or antimicrobial compounds.

21. (new) Method for cleaning and optionally disinfecting a contact lens, wherein a contact lens care composition according to Claim 6 is brought into contact with a contact lens for a period of time that is sufficient to clean and optionally disinfect said lens.